

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2624

To establish a program for training residents of low-income rural areas for, and employing the residents in, new telecommunications industry jobs located in the rural areas, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 10 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. DOMENICI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

---

## A BILL

To establish a program for training residents of low-income rural areas for, and employing the residents in, new telecommunications industry jobs located in the rural areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Employment in  
5 Telecommunications Industry Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1           (1) DISLOCATED WORKER; LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The terms “dislocated worker” and “low-income individual” have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801).

6           (2) LOW-INCOME RURAL AREA.—The term “low-income rural area” means a county that—

8                   (A) has a 1996 population of not less than 60,000 and not more than 105,000 persons;

10                   (B) contains a municipality with a 1996 population of not less than 35,000 and not more than 50,000 persons;

13                   (C) has a land area of not less than 5,500 and not more than 6,100 square miles;

15                   (D) has a population density of not less than 10 and not more than 20 persons per square mile;

18                   (E) has a 1996 per capita income that is—

19                           (i) not less than \$16,000 and not more than \$16,500; and

21                           (ii) not less than 86 and not more than 88 percent of the statewide per capita income for the State in which the county is located; or

25                   (F) is a county no part of which is—

1 (i) within an area designated as a  
 2 standard metropolitan statistical area by  
 3 the Director of the Office of Management  
 4 and Budget; or

5 (ii) within an area designated as a  
 6 metropolitan statistical area by the Direc-  
 7 tor of the Office of Management and  
 8 Budget; or

9 (G)(i) is experiencing a significant contrac-  
 10 tion in the oil and natural gas exploration and  
 11 development industry;

12 (ii) experienced a plant closing within 1  
 13 year before the date of enactment of this Act  
 14 that significantly impacted the county; or

15 (iii) is in close proximity to an Indian res-  
 16 ervation, as determined by the Bureau of In-  
 17 dian Affairs.

18 (3) INTENSIVE SERVICES.—The term “intensive  
 19 services” means services described in section  
 20 134(d)(3) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
 21 (29 U.S.C. 2864(d)(3)).

22 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
 23 the Secretary of Labor.

24 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means 1 of the  
 25 several States.

1 **SEC. 3. RURAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE TELECOMMUNI-**  
2 **CATIONS INDUSTRY PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
4 program to promote rural employment in the tele-  
5 communications industry. In carrying out the program,  
6 the Secretary shall make grants to States for projects de-  
7 scribed in subsection (b).

8 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant  
9 under subsection (a) shall use the funds made available  
10 through the grant to carry out a State telecommunications  
11 employment and training project. In carrying out the  
12 project, the State shall—

13 (1) train eligible individuals for new tele-  
14 communications industry jobs that will be located in  
15 low-income rural areas pursuant to arrangements  
16 with employers participating in the project, including  
17 ensuring that individuals receive—

18 (A) intensive services;

19 (B) customized training and appropriate  
20 remedial training described in paragraphs (2)  
21 and (3) of section 4; and

22 (C) appropriate supportive services; and

23 (2) arrange for the employment of the individ-  
24 uals in the telecommunications industry jobs.

1       (c) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—To be eligible to par-  
2 ticipate in a project described in subsection (a), an individ-  
3 ual shall be—

4           (1) a resident of a low-income rural area;

5           (2)(A) a low-income individual;

6           (B) a dislocated worker from the oil and natu-  
7 ral gas exploration and development industry;

8           (C) an out-of-school youth;

9           (D) an individual with a disability, as defined in  
10 section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of  
11 1998;

12          (E) an individual who is receiving, or who has  
13 received within the past year, assistance under the  
14 State temporary assistance for needy families pro-  
15 gram established under part A of title IV of the So-  
16 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or other  
17 public assistance;

18          (F) a veteran, as defined in section 101 of the  
19 Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

20          (G) a displaced homemaker, as defined in sec-  
21 tion 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

22          (H) an older individual, as defined in section  
23 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

24          (I) a homeless individual;

1           (J) an individual eligible to participate in activi-  
 2           ties carried out under section 166 of the Workforce  
 3           Investment Act of 1998;

4           (K) an individual eligible to participate in em-  
 5           ployment and training activities under section 134 of  
 6           the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

7           (L) a long-term unemployed individual; or

8           (M) an individual with multiple barriers to em-  
 9           ployment; and

10          (3) an individual who has been assessed by the  
 11          entity carrying out the project and determined to  
 12          need intensive services.

13          (d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall make the  
 14          grants to not more than 3 States.

15       **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND STATE PLAN.**

16          (a) CONTENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
 17          under this Act, a State shall submit an application to the  
 18          Secretary of Labor at such time, in such manner, and con-  
 19          taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-  
 20          cluding a State plan that includes—

21               (1) information demonstrating how the project  
 22               will train and employ eligible individuals, including  
 23               individuals described in subparagraphs (C) through  
 24               (M) of section 3(c)(2);

1           (2) an assurance that the project will include a  
2           customized training program for the customer serv-  
3           ice and supervisory competencies needed in the tele-  
4           communications industry jobs to be located in the  
5           low-income rural areas served;

6           (3) an assurance that the project will include  
7           appropriate remedial training in such areas as read-  
8           ing, writing, math, and English as a second lan-  
9           guage for eligible individuals who the entity carrying  
10          out the project assesses and determines need such  
11          training;

12          (4) includes information describing linkages, in-  
13          cluding linkages relating to providing supportive  
14          services for participants in and graduates of the  
15          project, between—

16                (A) the entity carrying out the project; and

17                (B) one-stop operators (as defined in sec-  
18                tion 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of  
19                1998), one-stop partners (as defined in section  
20                101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998),  
21                State workforce investment boards established  
22                under section 111 of such Act, and local work-  
23                force investment boards established under sec-  
24                tion 117 of such Act;

1           (5) information identifying certification criteria  
2           for individuals who successfully complete the train-  
3           ing;

4           (6) an assurance that employers participating  
5           in the project will make available contributions to  
6           the costs of assessing and training participants in  
7           the project including those participants who are not  
8           eligible individuals described in subparagraph (c) for  
9           the new telecommunications jobs in an amount equal  
10          to not less than \$1 for every \$1 of Federal funds  
11          provided under the grant;

12          (7)(A) an assurance that the project will in-  
13          clude an appropriate performance assessment pro-  
14          gram that will measure—

15               (i) the rate of completion of the training  
16               by participants in the training;

17               (ii) the percentage of the participants who  
18               obtain unsubsidized employment;

19               (iii) the wages of the participants at place-  
20               ment in the employment; and

21               (iv) the percentage of the participants re-  
22               tained in the employment after 6 months of em-  
23               ployment; and



1 (B) an assurance that the entity carrying out  
2 the project will annually submit to the Secretary the  
3 results of the performance assessment program; and

4 (8)(A) information explaining how the activities  
5 carried out through the project are linked to State  
6 economic development activities; and

7 (B) information describing commitments from  
8 private sector employers to locate new telecommuni-  
9 cations jobs and facilities within the low-income  
10 rural areas to be served, including commitments to  
11 provide any needed upgrade in the telecommuni-  
12 cations infrastructure.

13 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary  
14 shall accept applications submitted under subsection (a)  
15 not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this  
16 Act.

17 (c) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary  
18 shall evaluate, and approve or reject, each application sub-  
19 mitted under subsection (a) that meets the criteria de-  
20 scribed in subsections (a) and (b) not later than 60 days  
21 after submission of the application.

22 (d) PRIORITY.—In determining which States receive  
23 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary will give prior-  
24 ity to a State submitting a State plan describing a project  
25 that—

1 (1) will serve an area of high unemployment;

2 (2) will serve an area with a significant bilin-  
3 gual population;

4 (3) will serve an area with a significant minor-  
5 ity population, including Native Americans;

6 (4) will serve an area with a high percentage of  
7 youth who have failed to complete secondary school;

8 (5) will serve an area significantly impacted by  
9 the contraction of the oil and natural gas exploration  
10 and development industry;

11 (6) will serve an area significantly impacted by  
12 recent plant closings; or

13 (7) is designed to create 1,000 or more new  
14 jobs within 2 years of the commencement of the  
15 training.

16 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
18 as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal years  
19 1999 through 2003.

○